

# BRIEFING



## GLOBAL CELEBRATION CREATES COMMUNITY FUN COME FOR THE PRODUCE, STAY FOR THE FESTIVITIES

**T**HE 2ND ANNUAL Global Celebration takes place Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Bloomington Farmers Market. Step onto the east lawn of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to experience lively cultural entertainment, delicious food and unique crafts. Children's activities, music and food represent six countries, including Africa, Asia, Central America and the Middle East. These activities are cosponsored through a partnership with the Children's Cultural Connection.

The Bloomington Farmers Market runs Saturdays, June 13 - October 11, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. The weekly gathering connects the public directly to farmers, growers and producers.

The market features a wide variety of goods, including locally grown vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, herbs, breads, honey, specialty meat products, maple syrup, jams and jellies, homemade soap and more.

For more information, call Ask the City at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

## THE SAVVY CONSUMER CAN COLLECT EXTRA CASH

### TAX CREDITS AND REBATES AVAILABLE FOR HOMEOWNERS

**W**OULD YOU LIKE to help the environment, save money on energy bills and put a little extra cash in your pocket? In addition to saving on natural gas and electric bills, Bloomington homeowners can collect tax credits and rebates when they improve their home's energy efficiency. But you have to know where to look. Tax credits are available from the federal government for qualifying energy-efficient improvements. Rebates are available from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy for energy-efficient appliances, furnaces and air conditioning. Conditions do apply, so be sure to investigate all of your options thoroughly before making any home improvements.

Federal income tax credits which cover 30 percent of costs, up to \$1,500, provide homeowners with an incentive to stop procrastinating and invest in energy conservation. You could lower your energy bills and get a tax credit by making energy-efficient updates to your home.

To qualify, improvements must be made to your existing, primary residence and new items must be placed in service by the end of 2010.

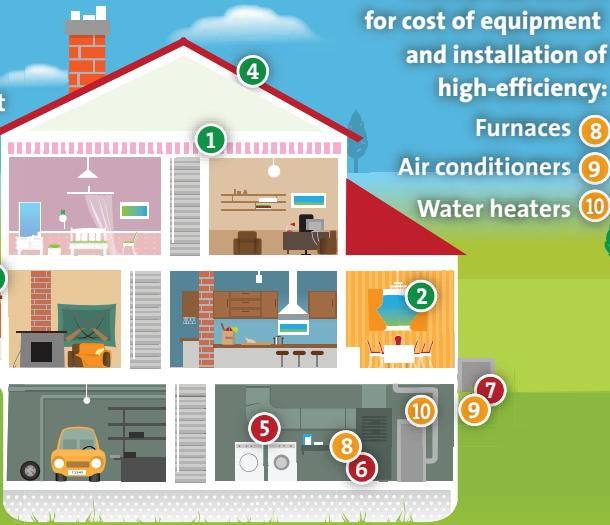
Tax credits are also available for more complex projects, such as solar panels and geothermal systems. Homeowners who install these

*What is a tax credit? Unlike a deduction, a tax credit reduces the tax you pay, dollar for dollar, whereas tax deductions – such as those for home mortgages and charitable giving – lower your taxable income.*

#### SAVE MONEY – SAVE RESOURCES

##### Federal tax credits for materials only:

- ① Insulation
  - ② Window replacement
  - ③ Exterior doors
  - ④ Roofing (limited products)
- Xcel and CenterPoint rebates for energy-efficient:
- ⑤ Appliances
  - ⑥ Furnaces
  - ⑦ Air conditioners



systems are eligible for a tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of labor and materials, with no caps. The extended tax credits for these more complex systems are available through 2016.

There are no income caps or phase-outs, which means that more than 22,000 Bloomington homeowners are eligible for the credit. If every homeowner took advantage of these incentives, it would equal a federal investment of more than \$33 million in Bloomington homes.

Additional information may be found on the City's website, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tax credits. For more information on utility company rebates, visit www.centerpointenergy.com or www.xcelenergy.com and click on the Residential tab. For more information about eligible energy-efficient home improvements, visit: www.ase.org or www.energystar.gov.

## SUSTAINABLE HOME IMPROVEMENT SERIES

**J**oin us Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Civic Plaza Rehearsal Hall, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, for free seminars on sustainable kitchen and bathroom remodeling, water conservation and federal tax incentives, hosted by the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority. For information, contact Tom Holman at 952-563-8941 or visit the website, keywords: HRA workshop.



Kitchen remodeling June 18

Bathroom remodeling July 16

Tax incentives for energy conservation August 27

Home water conservation September 17



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## E-SUBSCRIBE DELIVERS

### INFORMATION YOU CRAVE, ABOUT THE CITY YOU LOVE...

**E-SUBSCRIBE**, a new electronic subscription service, delivers City news via e-mail. Visitors to the City's website can choose to receive e-mail or wireless alerts on 13 different topics, ranging from planning and transportation to special events and Parks and Recreation activities. All you need to subscribe is a valid e-mail address. Visit the City's website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: E-Subscribe.

For more information, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819.

## PROTECT YOURSELF BE WARY OF SOLICITORS



**B**LOOMINGTON CITY CODE requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. Solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign, or use aggressive sales tactics. Nonprofit, religious and political organizations are exempt from licensing, but must abide by hours and have proper identification.

For more information, call Licensing at 952-563-8728.



## BOOK 'EM USED BOOK SALE FUNDS CRIME PREVENTION

**T**HE BLOOMINGTON Crime Prevention Association will hold its annual used book sale, June 5 - 20, at 9801 Lyndale Avenue South. Proceeds from the sale help fund crime prevention and awareness programs, the Bloomington Police Explorers and the Bloomington Police Department. For more information, call 952-220-2537 or visit [www.bcpamn.org](http://www.bcpamn.org).

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